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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-10 remain in the application. Claim 1 is amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

I. Invention Summary

The present invention is directed to a moon dial that can be incremented either forward or backward by rotating the hands of the clock forward or backward.

As defined in amended independent claim 1 and independent claims 5 and 9, a rotatable moon disk includes a plurality of generally symmetric teeth. A drive disk includes a pin extending therefrom. The pin engages the teeth of the moon disk such that the moon disk increments forward or backward one tooth for each forward or backward revolution of the drive disk. As further defined in claim 9, a friction device is included on the moon disk axis creating friction between the disk and the moon disk axis.

II. Claim Rejections

A. Section 102 Rejection Based on U.S. Patent 4,881,213 to Zaslawsy

Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zaslawsy.

The Zaslawsy patent discloses a watch with a moon dial and a date indicator dial. The moon dial 36 includes a number of triangular-shaped teeth about its perimeter. The teeth are driven by a pin 48 that extends from a drive wheel 30. The pin

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48 advances the moon dial 36 one tooth for each clockwise rotation of the drive disk 30. The moon dial 36 is prevented from freewheeling by a jumper spring 38 that engages a space between two of the teeth. The jumper spring must be overcome to increment the moon dial 36 one tooth and force the jumper spring into the subsequent tooth space. The drive wheel 30 rotates in a unique, non-circular pattern. This pattern prevents the pin 48 from incrementing the moon dial as a result of counterclockwise rotation of the drive disk 30. As described at column 4, lines 30-35, when the hands are turned in a counterclockwise direction, “the pin 48 enters into contact with the tooth of the wheel 36 which occupies the position 64. It [the pin 48] thus drives the wheel 36 backwards, *but not far enough to make the corresponding jumper engage in the preceding tooth space.*” [Emphasis added]. In order to set the Zaslawsy moon dial, a user must turn the hands of the watch successively backwards and forwards to make the pin 48 pass behind the tooth occupying the position of the tooth 64 without definitively changing the position of this tooth and then to drive this tooth to drive the wheel 36 forward by one step.

With respect to amended independent claim 1 and independent claim 5, Zaslawsy does not disclose a pin that engages the teeth of the moon disk such that the moon disk increments forward or backward one tooth for each forward or backward revolution of the drive disk. Unlike the claimed invention, Zaslawsy cannot increment the moon dial in both directions. Instead, the pin can only increment the moon dial in a clockwise direction. When the Zaslawsy drive disk and pin are rotated *counterclockwise*, the moon dial cannot be rotated far enough to make the corresponding

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jumper spring engage in the preceding tooth space. As a result, the jumper spring remains in the same tooth space, and the moon dial does not increment one tooth. In order to set the moon dial of Zaslawsy, a user must move the hands of the watch successively backward and forward to advance the moon dial in the clockwise direction.

Because Zaslawsy fails to disclose all of the elements of amended independent claim 1 and independent claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection based on Zaslawsy under Section 102 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

B. Section 103 Rejection Based on Zaslawsy in View of U.S. Patent

2,336,519 to Wilcox

As originally filed, claims 2-4, 6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Zaslawsy in view of Wilcox.

Wilcox is cited for disclosing a clock having a friction washer. Applicants submit that Wilcox does not supplement the above noted inadequacies of Zaslawsy with respect to independent claims 1 and 5 from which claims 2-4, 6 and 8 depend, or with respect to independent claim 9. In particular, neither Zaslawsy nor Wilcox disclose, teach or suggest a pin that engages the teeth of the moon disk such that the moon disk increments forward or backward one tooth for each forward or backward revolution of the drive disk. Wilcox does not even disclose a moon disk, let alone a moon disk that can be incremented forward or backward.

Because Zaslawsy and Wilcox do not disclose, teach or suggest the

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claimed invention, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 2-4, 6 and 8-10 under Section 103 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

C. Section 103 Rejection Based on Zaslawsky in view of Wilcox and U.S.

Patent 4,548,512 to Erard

As originally filed, claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Zaslawsky in view of Wilcox and further in view of Erard.

Erard is cited only for disclosing a watch with a moon disk where the moon disk is driven by the hour wheel which rotates one revolution per 12 hours. Erard completely fails to supplement the above noted inadequacies of Zaslawsky and Wilcox with respect to independent claim 5, from which claims 7 and 8 depend. In particular, Erard does not disclose, teach or suggest a pin that engages the teeth of the moon disk such that the moon disk increments forward or backward one tooth for each forward or backward revolution of the drive disk. In fact, Erard expressly teaches away from the present invention, stating that “A spring click of the pinion of the moon phases stops this latter when the hour wheel is displaced anti-clockwise, for example during a negative time setting.” Column 1, lines 29-32.

Applicants therefore submit that the rejection of claims 7 and 8 under Section 103 is unfounded and/or overcome, and therefore should be withdrawn.

D. Dependent Claims

The dependent claims further define Applicants' invention and are therefore even more clearly allowable than the claims discussed above. Claim 2 recites

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that the moon dial has an axis of rotation, and further comprises a friction means for applying rotational friction to the moon dial, the friction means mounted on the axis.

Claim 3 recites that the friction means comprises a wave washer engaging the moon dial.

Claim 4 recites that the driving gear completes one revolution every twenty-four hours.

Claim 6 recites a wave washer that maintains consistent friction with the moon disk, preventing the disk from incrementing when not engaged by the pin. Claim 7 recites that the drive disk makes one revolution every 12 hours. Claim 8 recites that the clock has conventional hands and the disk may be incremented forward or backward by any manual or automatic rotation of the hands. Claim 10 recites that the friction device is a wave washer.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, and these remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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